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which the advocates of scientific management view the prospective attitude of labor toward this change in method. Evidence seems to indicate that laborers have been well satisfied wherever it has been introduced. There is every indication, however, that a general application will meet with great opposition on the part of organized labor, as its successful operation is directly at variance with the demands and policies of the unions.

The speakers at the Tuck School Conference were men who have reduced organization to a science. The book merits a careful reading not only by managers, but also by those in any way interested in the trend of present-day methods of business management.

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*Old Age Dependency in the United States.* By LEE WELLING SQUIER.  
New York: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. xii+361. \$1.50.

This survey of the pension movement in the United States is a most timely study of a subject on which we are poorly informed and in which we are becoming increasingly interested. It presents shocking evidence of the distress of 1,250,000 aged dependents, and estimates the *actual* cost at \$179,000,000 annually.

There is general agreement with Professor Devine that the causes of old-age dependency are largely misfortune and low (real) wages—that is, that the causes are social rather than individual. It is therefore clear why people do not purchase annuities of some form. A comprehensive and valuable survey of the various efforts at relief, which may be classified as (1) service pensions freely granted by employers or by states, (2) compulsory systems of contributions by employers, employees, and the state, (3) purchase of old-age annuities, reveals the fact that they are woefully inadequate, and that, as a consequence, charity of some form must bear the burden. What then should be done? The United States is the only great industrial nation which has not attempted something. Support by old-age pensions is undoubtedly better than dependence on charity. The choice lies between annuities and pensions. But annuities do not provide for those now dependent or approaching dependency, voluntary annuities are seldom purchased, and a compulsory system involves too great an accumulation of reserves. A national pension system, on the other hand, would be no more costly than charity. It would provide independence, would be quite just and impartial, and might be highly scientific. This conclusion is formulated more definitely in two draft bills inserted as appendices. Unfortunately, however, the constitutionality question is entirely neglected.

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*The Regulation of Municipal Utilities.* Edited by CLYDE LYNDON KING.  
New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912. 12mo, pp. ix+404. \$1.50 net.

With the growing complexity of city life it has come about that the supplying of the individual's needs has passed almost entirely out from his own

control. In a few instances the city attends to them; but for the most part the matter rests with private concerns. It is with the regulation of such private corporations that this work has to deal.

The book is a compilation of the most important papers that have been presented on the subject at various meetings of the National Municipal League. Apart from several introductory chapters, these have been arranged under the heads of regulation through franchises, regulation through municipal utility commissions, and regulation through state public utility commissions. There is need of the utility commission to enforce the franchise, since enforcement by the lawsuit, by legislative bodies, or by the people through the initiative and referendum has been inadequate and ineffectual. Of the two types of commission the advantage lies with the state commission, since it alone can secure all the data in particular instances, or in instances where a comparison between the utilities in different cities is needed.

In addition to the general discussions, chapters have been inserted under the several main heads to show in the concrete with what varying success the different methods of regulation have been tried in different states and cities. This feature, with the index and the bibliography, makes it a work valuable for both student and general reader.

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*The Wisconsin Idea.* By CHARLES MCCARTHY. New York: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. xvi+323. \$1.50.

If one is to take the author's dedication "To the legislators, always criticized and never praised," as a statement of fact, he must find in this book the inevitable exception, for no group of legislators could desire a more sincere and honorable tribute than is herein rendered to those of Wisconsin. The writer's faith in the "Wisconsin idea" is quite evidently unequivocal and, as he shows, justly so. The progress which he describes as taking place in legislation in Wisconsin is of a nature to make anyone who has an interest in such matters desire to know more of it. He explains it as the work of men truly interested in good government and willing to do their utmost to attain it. The scientific way in which they have attempted to reach this end through co-operation with the state university and other expert service, and the careful way in which experimental legislation has been planned have resulted very fortunately for the state. It is true, however, as the author says, that the conditions in Wisconsin were especially favorable for such a course. The character of the people who settled the state was such that inflammatory measures and mere rhetoric would not win much following. With a volatile people or one ignorant of the object for which these men are striving the same results would not accrue. Detailed statements in regard to commissions that have been established, the legislative reference department, the affect on business of various measures, etc., give an insight into the spirit of that Wisconsin idea of which they are the expression.